as a Curiosity) by forcing the Horse forward, to get the sooner out of the fiery Incalescence. I am,

Sir,

Leedes, Jan. 20. 1710-11.

Your most humble Servant,

RALPH THORESBY.

IV. *Another Letter from Mr.* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. to Dr.* Hans Sloane, *R. S. Secr. Giving an Account of a* Meteor, *which was seen in* Yorkshire, *and other Neighbouring Countries, upon* May 18. 1710.

Honoured Sir,

YOU would think me remiss, if you should hear from any other hand, that a flaming Sword (as twas call'd) was brandish'd over this Town on *Holy Thursday* last (one of the ꝥarꝥ-ꝺaꝝaꝛ or *Ambarvalia*, when the Inhabitants had been perambulating a neighbouring Mannor;) and yet I thought it not worth your Notice, looking upon it only as a hot, and dry, sulphurous Exhalation, the natural effect of so great a drought: But having since been with some who saw it, not only in the neighbouring Towns, but a great way North, as others did above 50 Miles South of this place, I think it not amiss to acquaint you therewith, and to enquire whether any such Meteor was in your Parts. It appeared here at a quarter past Ten at Night, and took its

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its courſe from South to North: It was broad at one end, and ſmall at the other; and was by ſome thought to reſemble a Trumpet, and moved with the broad end foremoſt. I cannot give ſo particular an Account as I could wiſh; for having drawn the Curtain of the Window where I was reading, I ſaw nothing, ſave a ſudden flaſh of Light, which I took no notice of (ſuch Coruſcations being frequent in Summer Evenings without Thunder, which I at firſt expected) till the next Day, that many Perſons were talking of the Appearance; which was ſo ſudden and bright, that they were ſtartled to ſee their own Shadows, when neither Sun or Moon ſhone upon them. This is pretty odd, that all Perſons (tho' at many Miles diſtance from each other, when they ſaw it) thought it fell within three or four Furlongs of them, and that it went out with bright Sparklings at the ſmall end. An Ingenious Clergyman told me, that it was the ſtrangeſt *deceptio viſus* he was ever ſenſible of, if it was not abſolutely extinguiſh'd within a few paces of him; and yet others ſaw it many Miles off, further North, in a few Moments. Pardon, good Sir, this imperfect Account, it being all that came to the notice of,

Sir,

Leedes, May 31. 1710.

Your very humble and moſt Obedient Servant,

RALPH THORESBY.

P. S. It has been likewiſe ſeen in the Counties of *Nottingham* and *Derby*, as well as *York* and *Lancaſter*.